



John the Baptist

Mary, the mother of Jesus was a relative of Elizabeth, the mother of John. After the angel appeared to Mary telling her of the coming of Jesus, she went to see Elizabeth and learned that she, too, was expecting a child. Now Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah were advanced in years and their child was a very special child. He had been chosen by God for a special mission. That mission was to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming Messiah.

The prophet Isaiah spoke of John as "the voice of one calling in the desert" telling the people to get ready for the coming of Jesus. John told them that Jesus would be greater and mightier than he, and that he was not worthy to even carry the sandals of the Lord.

He was dressed in clothes made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. He lived in the desert and ate locusts and wild honey.

He went through all the country around the Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Crowds of people came confessing their sins and he baptized them in the Jordan River.

He told them that they must live right. They asked him what they should do. He said that if they had two coats they should share with a person who did not have a coat, and if they had food, they should share with those who did not.

The tax collectors asked what they should do and he told them to be honest in their collection of taxes and to not collect more than they were required to do.

The soldiers asked what they should do, and he told them to not take money from people illegally, to always tell the truth and not falsely accuse people. They were to be content with their pay and not grumble about it.

John always spoke the truth, even when people didn't want to hear the truth. He fearlessly confronted King Herod with the evil things he had done. Eventually this stand for the truth would cost John his life.

The story of John the Baptist can be found in Luke chapter 3.

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